

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This response is in response to the Office Action mailed August 5, 2004. The claims were subject to a restriction requirement.

Claims 1-27 were originally presented. Claims 1-27 remain in the application.

Restriction Requirement:

In response to the restriction requirement of August 5, 2004, the Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I. The claims readable thereon being claims 1-11, 24 and 25.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement because no reasons for dividing the inventions exist under MPEP 808.02. Specifically, as stated in the Office Action, Groups I-III have the same classification (all are classified in class 347, subclass 104). The spring pick block and corner media separator are both directed to the field of picking and separation of individual sheets from a media stack. The field of search would be the same for both the spring pick block and the corner media separator. A search for one would reveal the other. In addition, applicant notes that the corner media separator of Group II and III is also a dependent claim of the spring pick block of Group I. Therefore, a search for Group I would inherently satisfy a search for Groups II and III. Therefore, the inventions identified in Groups I-III in the Office Action should not be divided because 1) they have the same classification, 2) they do not have a separate status in the art, and 3) the field of search is the same, and would not impose a serious burden.

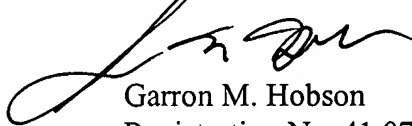
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

DATED this 1st day of September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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